

In the claims:

Please replace claim 61 with the following:

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68 61. A method for treating bone loss in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an expression vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding osteoprotegerin and expressing osteoprotegerin having the activity of inhibiting bone resorption.

[ Please replace claim 62 with the following: ]

62. The method of Claim 61 wherein the nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence from residues 1 to 401 or from residues 22 to 401 as shown in Figure 9C-9D (SEQ ID NO:124);
  - b) a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising a deletion of 1 to 216 amino acids residues from the carboxy terminus of the polypeptide as in (a); and
  - c) a nucleic acid which hybridizes under high stringency conditions of 5XSSC, 50% formamide and 42°C with the nucleic acid set forth in (a) and (b) wherein the hybridizing nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the activity of inhibiting bone resorption.
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